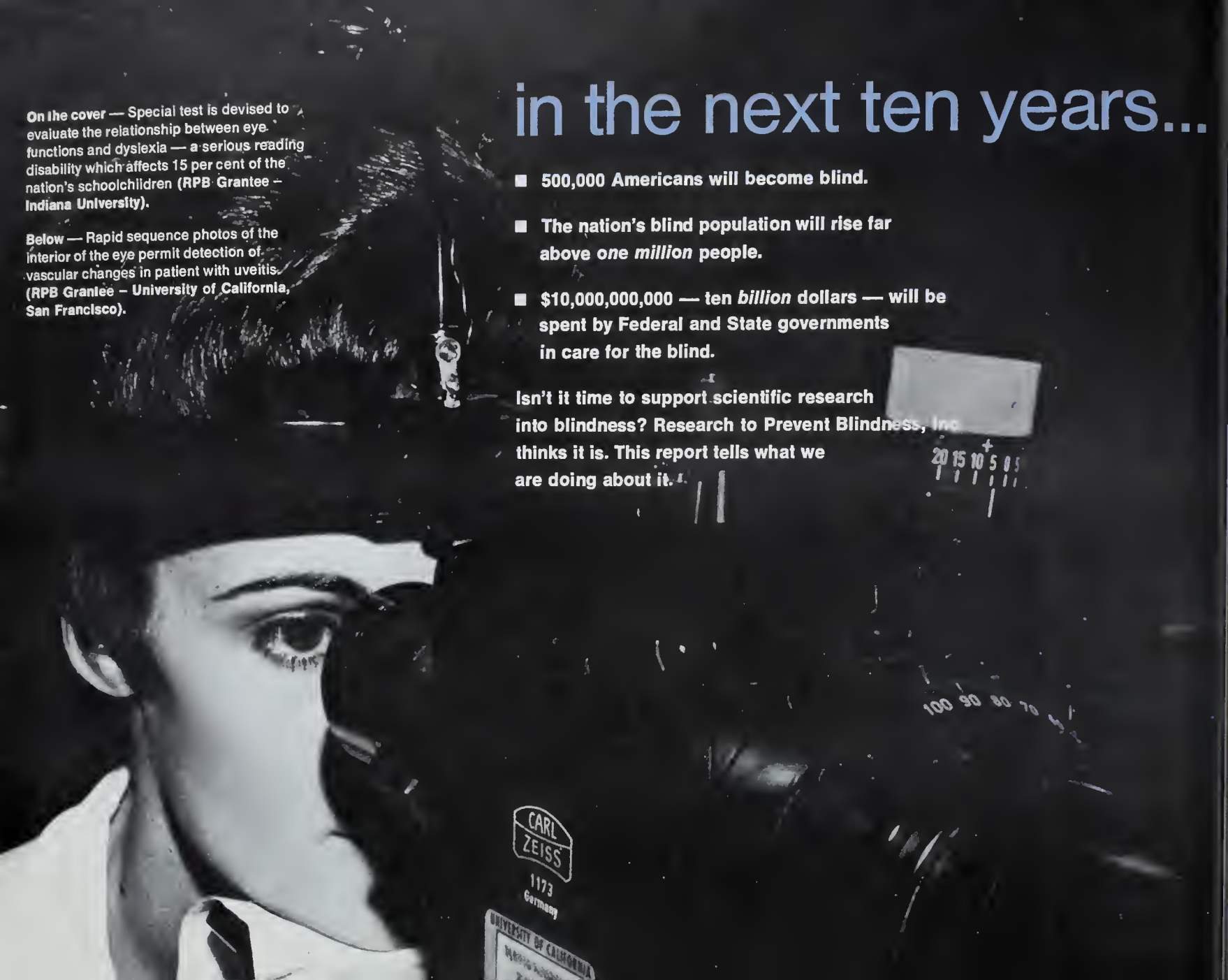




Research  
to Prevent  
Blindness, Inc.  
Annual Report  
1967





**On the cover** — Special test is devised to evaluate the relationship between eye functions and dyslexia — a serious reading disability which affects 15 per cent of the nation's schoolchildren (RPB Grantee — Indiana University).

**Below** — Rapid sequence photos of the interior of the eye permit detection of vascular changes in patient with uveitis. (RPB Grantee — University of California, San Francisco).

# in the next ten years...

- 500,000 Americans will become blind.
- The nation's blind population will rise far above *one million* people.
- \$10,000,000,000 — *ten billion* dollars — will be spent by Federal and State governments in care for the blind.

Isn't it time to support scientific research into blindness? Research to Prevent Blindness, Inc. thinks it is. This report tells what we are doing about it.

CARL  
ZEISS  
1173  
Germany

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

## the primary goal of RPB

is to preserve the vision of those who have sight.

Last year some 42,000 persons became blind. Many times that number were confronted for the first time with severe visual problems. There are now more than one million persons in the United States with little or no useful vision.

Another 3,500,000 have only partial vision. One out of every four blind persons is under 40 years of age.

The diseases that cause most blindness are largely unpreventable. Science does not know how to stop cataracts from forming. It does not know what triggers glaucoma. Diabetic retinopathy remains a mystery and is fast becoming the major cause of blindness in the United States. Birth anomalies, retinal detachments, retinitis pigmentosa and other blinding conditions occur with no way to prevent them.

These problems now are being attacked with vigor and confidence by the nation's highly skilled eye researchers. But there are *not enough* ophthalmic scientists and technicians for the work that must be done. There are *not enough* funds provided to support a realistic research attack on blindness. There is *not enough* laboratory space for eye research. There is *not enough* modern research equipment at work to solve the mystery of vision and the diseases which destroy it.

Blindness is probably the oldest of man's physical afflictions. Yet it is only today that eye research is being recognized as the key to preservation of sight and being given the initial support to move quickly ahead.

RPB has initiated that movement and continues through its imaginative programs to strengthen and intensify the entire research attack against blinding diseases.

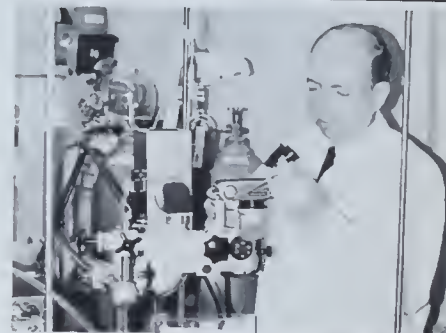
To build  
strong  
eye research  
programs



To provide  
adequate  
laboratory  
space



To supply  
modern  
research  
equipment



To develop  
trained  
eye research  
personnel

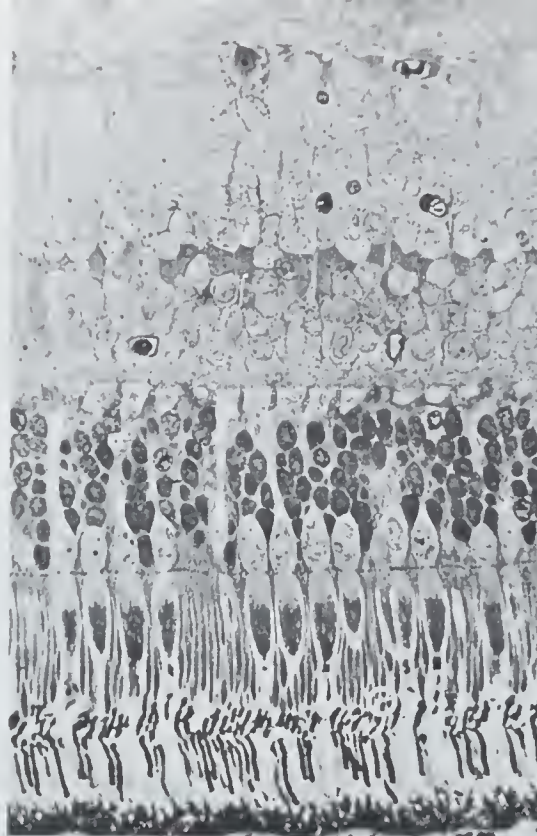




## the ultimate purpose of eye

research is to find and eradicate the causes of blinding diseases. Until preventives are found, there must also be a continuous development of new knowledge and techniques for preserving sight even in the presence of disease.

RPB Grants support both basic and clinical research. They encourage eye research scientists in their attack against the nation's visual problems on an ever-widening front — in laboratories, in operating rooms, in eye clinics, in every situation where existing knowledge may be brought into play and new knowledge discovered. While some investigators probe the infinitesimal world of genes and chromosomes in the hope of saving future generations from blindness, others work to open up the pathways of vision for today's victims of diseases which cannot yet be prevented. An RPB grant may help provide a more effective technique for the surgeon in restoring sight to a cataractous eye — or assist a biochemist who explores the chemical mysteries of cataract formation in his search for preventives.



**This is where  
sight begins**

An electron microscope reveals the structure of photo receptor cells in the retina at the back of the human eye. Here light waves are received after passing through the cornea, the pupil, the lens and the vitreous. The cells then transmit the light to the brain as electrical impulses, producing vision.

Disease may interrupt the path of light to these cells, or cause it to be distorted. Sometimes the cells themselves are not fully capable of carrying out their function. Sight fails.

Most blindness — more than 80 percent — is the result of diseases whose causes are unknown to science.

(RPB Grantee — Harvard University)

# explorations in vision



Specially designed equipment is used to record and computerize the effects of visual deprivation on the developing retina of laboratory subjects, with far-reaching implications in the study of serious visual disabilities in children. (RPB Grantee – University of Miami)



Examining the inner chamber of the eyes of 1,000 newborn babies for retinal hemorrhages, an RPB grantee has recorded important findings for use in follow-up studies that may help solve the mystery of amblyopia. (RPB Grantee – Johns Hopkins University).



Tissue from puppy born blind as a result of a congenital abnormality of the retina is prepared for electron microscopy at the Jules Stein Eye Institute. Comparative studies with human tissue are yielding fundamental data on retinal detachments and other eye disease processes. (RPB Grantee – University of California, Los Angeles).

during 1967 the cumulative total of RPB unrestricted research grants reached \$1,030,000. Thirty-three major institutions have received these unique awards of \$5,000 annually which literally put eye research directors "in the driver's seat" by providing unrestricted funds which they may quickly channel into those scientific areas which are most essential to the development of their programs. These funds — provided from contributions to RPB — have had an electric effect in stimulating and accelerating explorations across the entire field of investigative ophthalmology.

## vast new opportunities

for research into the eye have been opened by dramatic advances in technology. A whole host of medical, scientific and technical skills can now be brought into play in exploring the nature of sight, the intricate pathways of vision and the role of disease in visual failure.

The scientist who directs eye research today must be expert in many fields, for the seemingly diverse roles of the geneticist, the immunologist, the biochemist, the biophysicist and numerous others of the scientific community are vital to the attainment of research goals in ophthalmology.

Complex and expensive equipment, when put at the disposal of the eye research team, can provide knowledge and insight never before available to even the most renowned eye specialists of the past. RPB funds are used to purchase, develop and refine instrumentation and equipment for countless specific tasks that spell hope not only for the future, but for thousands whose sight may now be saved through the application of new knowledge.

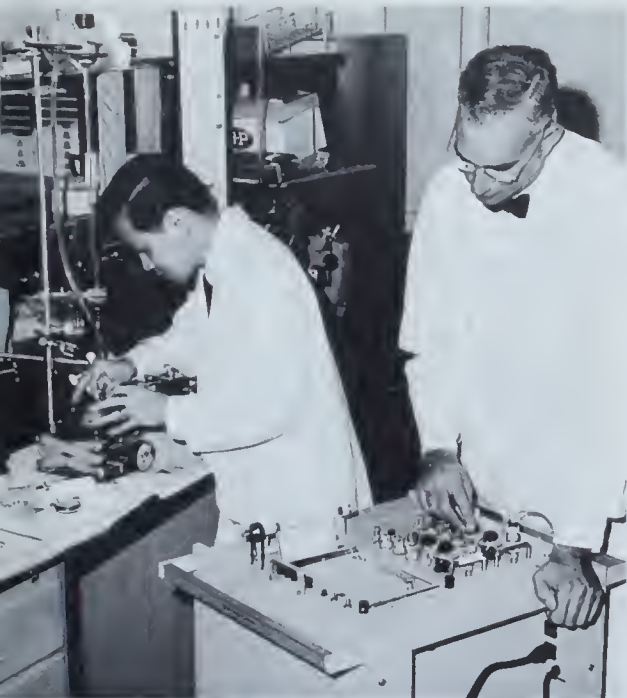


Microscopic studies of the structure of the eye now reveal once-hidden facts that serve the modern scientist in attacking the basic causes of blinding diseases.

**(RPB Grantee – University of Chicago).**

# new depths of perception





RPB funds purchase intricate equipment such as special devices for measuring fluid outflow resistance in the eye, a significant process in relation to glaucoma. (RPB Grantee – Yale University).



Gas chromatography is used for analysis of steroids in studies to determine why steroids raise intraocular pressure in some people but not in others. (RPB Grantee – Mount Sinai Hospital).



Taking motion pictures of the inside of the eye during an operation by photographing through the mirror of the indirect ophthalmoscope worn by the surgeon. (RPB Grantee – Baylor University).

Physicist measures electrical properties of eye tissue of anesthetized rabbit using electrode controlled by a micromanipulator. (RPB Grantee – Retina Foundation).



“When it comes to inspiring progress in ophthalmology, Research to Prevent Blindness stands conspicuously tall and virtually alone in its wisdom of combining financial help with moral support, aid with disentanglement, and assistance with flexibility.

“The amount of every RPB grant should be multiplied by an adjuvant factor to determine its true worth. In every case it would be far more than the fiscal amount; in most instances it would be impossible to express in terms of dollars and cents.”

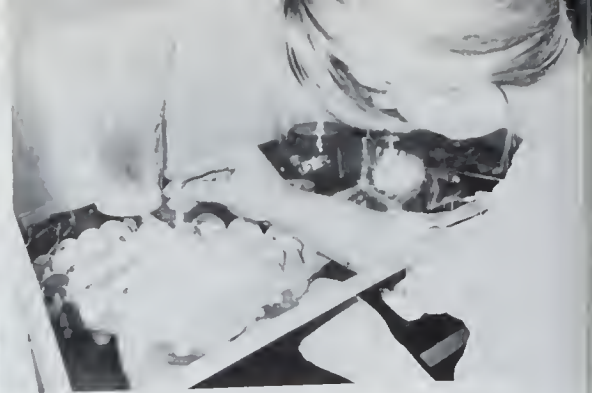
— from the 1967 progress report of an RPB grantee.



Corneal diseases in rabbits permit intensive study in the search for preventives and cures of similar blinding conditions in humans. (RPB Grantee – University of Iowa).



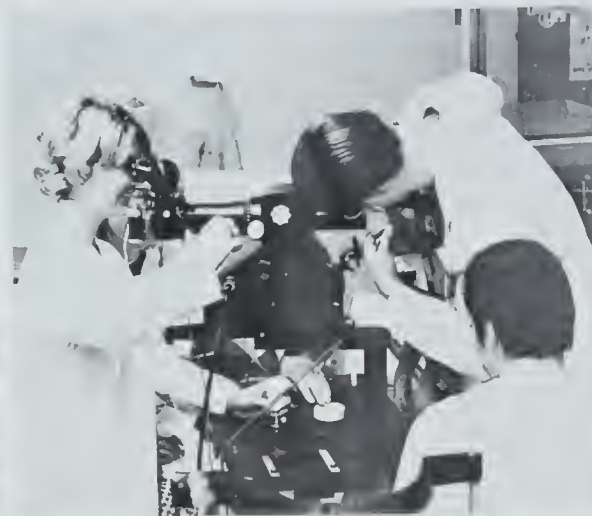
Anatomical and physiologic changes that occur in detached retinas before and after reattachment are observed in the owl monkey for the first time under conditions that simulate human disease. (RPB Grantee – University of Miami).



Tracking down the world's greatest single cause of blindness, eyelid scrapings from trachoma-infected Indian children are inoculated into chick embryos in RPB-supported research at WHO International Reference Centre for Trachoma. More than 400 million people suffer from trachoma, of which 10 million are totally blind. (RPB Grantee – Francis I. Proctor Foundation, University of California, San Francisco).



Testing a new group of antibiotics for effectiveness in ocular disease therapy. (RPB Grantee – University of Colorado).



A research team studies the retinal circulation of a laboratory animal. Such techniques applied to humans are demonstrating the eye to be an effective "window" for observation of the body's life processes. (RPB Grantee – Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia).



Biochemical phenomena of changes in lens proteins that take place in cataract and senescence are traced through laboratory techniques employing radioactive isotopes. (RPB Grantee – New York University).

better eye research...





Circulation of a dye within the retina is timed by cinematography, providing information on retinal blood flow in diabetic retinopathy and other diseases. (RPB Grantee – Georgetown University).



Modern diagnostic methods and equipment, combining the expertise of the physician (center) and the ophthalmic photographer (right), vastly increase opportunities for effective treatment of eye disorders. (RPB Grantee – University of Louisville).



Tears collected on filter paper will be studied for the relationship between their proteins and many ocular diseases. (RPB Grantee – Indiana University).



Comparative studies of new and conventional treatment of amblyopia are providing new insight into this serious disorder which affects 2½ per cent of all children. (RPB Grantee – Baylor University).



Changes in sight resulting from glaucoma are measured through visual field apparatus developed with RPB funds. (RPB Grantee – Yeshiva University, New York).

better care for patients

more than 10 percent of all hospital patients treated in the United States are eye patients. Each year, 42,000 of these people become legally blind while many thousands more join the millions who suffer from serious permanent visual disability. Yet the attention given eye research by most medical institutions has been pitifully inadequate.

Many of the nation's medical schools still deal with the science of ophthalmology as a subdivision of the department of surgery — a relic of the ancient concept that surgery is the inevitable alternative when blindness threatens. Institutions which in the past allotted only token space for eye research are now awakening to the vast potential of this neglected science. And those laboratories with a worldwide reputation for accomplishments in ophthalmology have recognized the limits imposed on their progress by outmoded and outgrown facilities.

The enormous and nationwide need for eye research laboratory space was dramatically underlined by the 1965 RPB survey report "Ophthalmic Research: U.S.A.", which has had important influence throughout the field of ophthalmology. Backing up the findings of that report, RPB has moved emphatically to assist institutions with scientific initiative and potential in the construction of modern eye research buildings. During 1967, two new facilities were in full operation as a result of RPB's laboratory construction programs. The \$6,000,000 Jules Stein Eye Institute at the University of California, Los Angeles is the largest eye institute ever constructed at one time. Named by the University in honor of RPB's Chairman, it already has made important contributions to eye research, treatment and training in its first year of operation. At Johns Hopkins University's famed Wilmer Ophthalmological Institute, eye research has been accelerated and expanded by the addition of the splendid \$1,600,000 Alan C. Woods Research Building, RPB's first laboratory construction project which was completed in 1964.

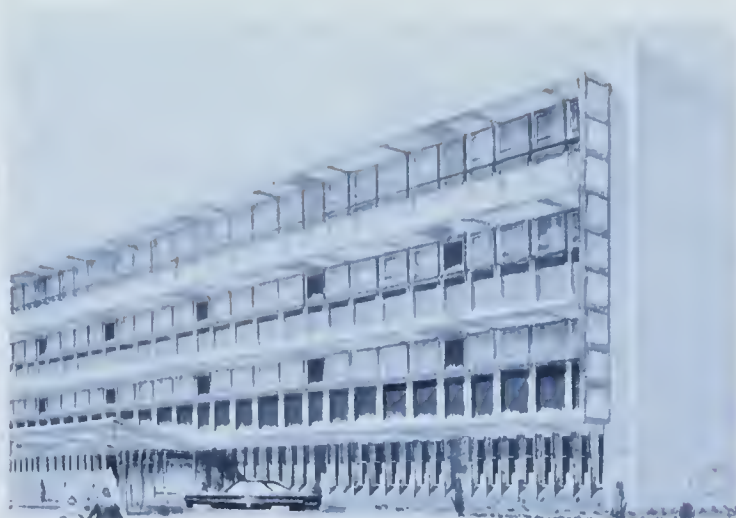
By the end of 1967 the steel superstructure was already rising on a \$4,600,000 modern eye research center sponsored by RPB to accommodate the continued growth of the Columbia-Presbyterian Institute of Ophthalmology in New York City. Meanwhile, at the University of Louisville, Kentucky, ground was broken in December for a \$2,000,000 facility for eye research which is a joint project of RPB and the Kentucky Lions. And at Duke University, North Carolina, architects' blueprints are being prepared and a construction campaign is under way for a \$2,500,000 facility which will bring important new emphasis to eye research at that institution.



Steel superstructure of a modern eye research center rises at the Columbia-Presbyterian Institute of Ophthalmology, New York City, the result of RPB's laboratory expansion program.

building  
for  
eye  
research





A model of technological progress in the advancement of eye research, the Jules Stein Eye Institute at the University of California, Los Angeles has brought new hope to thousands in its first year of operation. The UCLA Institute was created as an RPB project.

Cooperative effort of the Kentucky Lions, RPB and the University of Louisville, has made possible the construction of a \$2 million eye research center, now under way at the University. RPB conducted an extensive survey on the advisability of the undertaking, then agreed to finance the construction fund campaign, so that all voluntary contributions accrued to the new building. With the impetus of the Kentucky Lions Eye Foundation, the Lions conducted a statewide campaign through their local clubs. Symbolizing this teamwork and the successful completion of the drive, ground was broken in December by (left to right) Dr. Donn Smith, Dean, University of Louisville School of Medicine; David F. Weeks, Executive Director of RPB; and Finis E. Davis, former President, Lions International and President of the Kentucky Lions Eye Foundation.

## RPB's laboratory construction program

has produced more than \$12 million for important new eye research facilities at absolutely no fund raising cost to the institutions involved. Such costs — amounting to less than two percent of the funds raised — are paid entirely by RPB. All building campaign contributions are made directly to the university's construction fund, and every penny is used for eye research purposes. As a result, major research institutions have been enabled to broaden and intensify their eye research efforts without the cost, the risk and much of the administrative burden of traditional construction campaigns.



The expansion of eye research at Duke University, North Carolina is under way with RPB support as plans go forward for a modern ophthalmic center, partially shown in architect's conceptual drawing.



# RPB Eye Research Programs



- ★ RPB Unrestricted Research Grants
- ≡ RPB Research Construction Campaigns
- RPB Research Development Grants
- ▲ RPB Research Professorships
- RPB Research Manpower Awards
- ★ RPB Special Grants

## RPB Unrestricted Grant Recipients

	Institution	1967 Grants	Total Granted Through 1967
California	Francis I. Proctor Foundation	\$ 5,000	\$ 40,000
	University of California, San Francisco	5,000	40,000
	University of California, Los Angeles	5,000	40,000
Colorado	University of Colorado	5,000	20,000
Connecticut	Yale University	5,000	30,000
District of Columbia	Georgetown University	5,000	10,000
Florida	University of Florida	5,000	30,000
	University of Miami	5,000	40,000
Illinois	University of Chicago	5,000	40,000
Indiana	Indiana University	5,000	40,000
Iowa	State University of Iowa	5,000	40,000
Kentucky	University of Louisville	5,000	25,000
Louisiana	Tulane University	5,000	30,000
Maryland	Johns Hopkins University (Wilmer Institute of Ophthalmology)	5,000	40,000
Massachusetts	Harvard University — Mass. Eye & Ear Inf. (Howe Laboratory of Ophthalmology)	5,000	40,000
	Retina Foundation	5,000	40,000
Michigan	Kresge Eye Institute	5,000	40,000
	University of Michigan	5,000	40,000
Minnesota	University of Minnesota	5,000	40,000
Missouri	Washington University	5,000	40,000
New York	Columbia University	5,000	40,000
	Cornell University	5,000	40,000
	Eye Bank for Sight Restoration		10,000
	Mt. Sinai Hospital	5,000	15,000
	New York University	5,000	40,000
	Yeshiva University (Albert Einstein College of Medicine)	5,000	20,000
North Carolina	Duke University	5,000	10,000
Oregon	University of Oregon	5,000	40,000
Pennsylvania	Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia	5,000	15,000
	University of Pennsylvania	5,000	40,000
	Wills Eye Hospital		5,000
Texas	Baylor University	5,000	25,000
Virginia	Medical College of Virginia	5,000	25,000
		<u>\$ 155,000</u>	<u>\$1,030,000</u>



▲ The results of eye research are effectively applied through early detection, study and treatment of visual disorders in children. Twelve million schoolchildren in the United States need some form of eye care.

(RPB Grantee — Duke University).

◀ RPB Research Professor Alan Laties, M.D. (left), with the collaboration of pharmacologists and anatomists, has successfully developed new laboratory techniques which greatly extend the scope of basic studies of optic nerve tissue.

(RPB Grantee — University of Pennsylvania).

## a voluntary health organization

earns public support not for the amount of money it spends in research, but for its influence in stimulating the entire field to which it is dedicated. RPB does not compete with government in allocating funds for eye research. It uses its funds to do those things which government cannot do to assure the creation of conditions under which research is most likely to succeed. In doing this it multiplies by many times the value of every research dollar spent, whether by government, RPB or any other source.

For example, the development of a laser beam for ophthalmology, which now receives substantial support from the Federal government, was initiated through the use of an RPB unrestricted grant to carry out this pioneering work when no other funds were available. The approval and success of a government-supported research project may depend upon a scientist whose availability is assured by emergency salary support provided through an RPB grant. The construction of modern research laboratories and the strengthening of eye research programs open fertile new areas for the investment of public health funds. More and better eye research becomes possible as RPB grants increase the effectiveness of research personnel, enlarge the research capacity of institutions and enhance the quality of the nation's total eye research effort.

The objective is excellence.

- To encourage institutions with emerging eye research potential, RPB in 1967 established a category of Development Grants to make limited but unrestricted funds available to these embryonic programs. Two-year commitments of \$2,500 annually were made to the University of Washington, Seattle; Boston University, Boston; and Vanderbilt University, Nashville. The possession of fluid funds is of inestimable value to these starting programs, and the relatively small investments will play a large role in the growth of the laboratories.
- RPB Manpower Awards continue to provide emergency salary support for key research personnel. At Johns Hopkins University



Happily sharing their high honor, Dr. Charles L. Schepens of the Retina Foundation and Dr. Gerd Meyer-Schwickerath of Essen, Germany are presented with the \$25,000 RPB Trustees Award for Outstanding Ophthalmic Achievement. Left to right, Dr. Jules Stein, Chairman of RPB, Dr. Meyer-Schwickerath, Dr. Schepens, and RPB President, Robert E. McCormick.

# the pursuit of excellence



an expert in micro-instrumentation was retained for work in the development of "pre-fabricated" corneal grafts which is expected to have broad implications in the restoration of vision to the many thousands of Americans — millions, worldwide — who require corneal transplantation. At Cornell University, an RPB Manpower Award assured the addition of a microbiologist to the eye research staff for essential studies in electron microscopy. Each Award assures continuity of important projects for which no other funds are available.

- RPB Eye Research Professorships, each providing salary support of \$15,000 a year for five years, enabled two specially



As RPB's distinguished Scientific Advisory Panel met in November, two members were notified of their selection as winners of the 1967 Nobel Prize for Medicine. The Nobelists, Dr. George Wald (left) of Harvard University and Dr. H. K. Hartline (right) of Rockefeller University are shown seated with RPB Chairman Dr. Jules Stein. Standing (left to right) are Drs. Hammond, Prentice, Dempsey, Maumenee, Tatum and Spalter.

talented young scientists to establish full-time careers in basic studies of the visual process. Dr. John E. Dowling at Johns Hopkins' Wilmer Ophthalmological Institute and Dr. Alan M. Laties at the University of Pennsylvania already have won wide recognition for their work. Both might have been lost to ophthalmic research without the practical inducement of RPB support.

- In its pursuit of excellence, RPB has given financial stimulus to efforts within the scientific community to better focus and direct the advancement of eye research. An historic step in this direction was the establishment of the Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology which held its first national meeting



First national meeting of the Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology in session with Dr. John E. Harris of the University of Minnesota at podium. An RPB Special Grant helped launch this scientific group which is dedicated to excellence in eye research. Dr. Frank Winter (left), Secretary of the Association and Dr. A. Edward Maumenee, its President, are seated on the dais.

## the pursuit of excellence continued

in January 1967. RPB Special Grants totaling \$5,000 have assisted the Association in its organizational stages and in the development of its programs. Another RPB Special Grant of \$1,500 to the University of Rochester made possible the annual Ophthalmic Biochemistry Conference held in June at Woods Hole, Massachusetts, one of the most significant meetings in this basic science.

- Financial support of this kind has a deep influence upon those intangible aspects of scientific research which involve the human personality, which is probably the most important aspect of all. When a grantee writes that "staff morale soars in response to this kind of evidence of genuine interest" he is placing his finger upon that critical element, which is not money, but people. Here lies the ultimate key to excellence of research.

Phenomenon of enlarged eyes in chickens raised in continuous light is studied by researcher, shown taking intraocular pressure of a "patient".

(RPB Grantee – Washington University, St. Louis).



- As a reward for excellence, the Trustee of RPB in November, 1967 honored two eminent scientists by inviting them to share the \$25,000 RPB Trustees Award for Outstanding Ophthalmic Achievement. They are Dr. Charles L. Schepens, director of retina research at the Retina Foundation, Boston, and Dr. Gerd Meyer-Schwickerath, director of the University Eye Clinic, Essen, Germany. The scientists were selected by a distinguished panel of judges for their extraordinary contributions to the cure of retinal detachment and the treatment of retinal diseases. Through their work many thousands of people have been saved from blindness.

- RPB's Board of Trustees consists of leaders in business, finance and philanthropy who not only serve without compensation but absorb all the organization's operating expenses through their personal contributions. This assures that all other contributions to RPB are used entirely for research purposes. In establishing the Trustees Award it was similarly decided that contributions from outside sources should be used only for the development of current and future research efforts, rather than to reward accomplished work, however great its significance. The Award therefore was financed entirely out of Trustee contributions. Continuing the pursuit of excellence into its policy-making function, RPB was pleased to announce in November, 1967 the election of Mrs. Anna Bing Arnold of Beverly Hills, California to its Board of Trustees.

- Imagination and creativity of action, based on solid scientific opinion, is the hallmark of RPB's programs. This initiative is due largely to the advice and direction of an eminent and active Scientific Advisory Panel whose ten members represent the most respected leadership of the scientific community. Worldwide public recognition came to two of these gentlemen simultaneously in 1967 when Dr. Haldan K. Hartline of Rockefeller University and Dr. George Wald of Harvard University were selected to share the Nobel Prize for Medicine with Dr. Ragnar Granit of Sweden, for their work in the field of visual research. Both have served RPB since the organization's establishment. RPB now boasts three Nobel scientists on its advisory panel, Dr. Edward L. Tatum having won the prize in 1958.

- As the blind population steadily increases and its cost to the nation soars beyond one billion dollars a year, RPB continues to press Congress for a realistic government investment in vision research. In recent years, RPB has provided expert testimony before health appropriations committees of both the Senate and the House, attesting to the opportunities that now exist for a nationwide attack on blinding diseases. While the voice of the ophthalmic scientist is comparatively new to the field of health, its impact is becoming evident in the increasing awareness of our legislators to the tragic implications of inadequate eye research support.

- To those scientists who are daily meeting the challenge of blindness in a field that receives too little attention, it has become obvious that major impetus and direction can come only through the creation of a separate National Eye Institute within the National Institutes of Health. RPB has given its full support to this effort and in November of 1967 its Chairman, Dr. Jules Stein, testified in favor of enabling legislation at hearings called by the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee as a member of a panel of experts. The panel included Dr. A. Edward Maumenee of Johns Hopkins University; Dr. Thomas D. Duane of Jefferson Medical College; Dr. Michael Hogan of the University of California, San Francisco; Dr. Frank Newell of the University of Chicago; Dr. Herbert Kaufman of the University of Florida; Dr. David Cogan of Harvard University and Dr. Bradley Straatsma of the University of California, Los Angeles. It was the gist of their testimony that the Federal government's programs in vision research will not move ahead with full vitality and appropriate direction until a separate National Eye Institute is established. Congressional action is anticipated in 1968.



Careers in eye research are encouraged through the use of RPB grants to attract capable investigators. In photo above, a microbiologist undertakes important ophthalmic research with support of RPB funds. **(RPB Grantee – Tulane University)**. Below, a promising young investigator is provided with special training and support in beginning studies of the effect of contact lenses on the cornea. **(RPB Grantee – University of Oregon)**.





**eye research** is a broad complex of human activity. The eye itself — this tiny orbit — is a baffling world of endless questions for experts in many diverse fields of science, medicine and technology. It is a world seldom glimpsed by the public, although it encompasses some of the most significant and revolutionary contributions to progress in health.

To inform the public on matters of research is always a difficult task, and in 1967 RPB called upon the scientific press to help by meeting with eminent scientists in face-to-face discussion of their ongoing work. This stimulating confrontation occurred in November when more than 60 writers and eye researchers met in New York City at RPB's Second National Science Writers Seminar in Ophthalmology.

Representatives of major newspapers and other communications media listened intently as scientific speakers demonstrated the far-reaching impact of eye research, not only in its implications for the saving of sight, but in connection with numerous other diseases, including diabetes, syphilis, German measles, and vascular and respiratory disorders. Probing questions by science-trained news people brought exciting responses and full discussion of modern concepts and techniques of ophthalmic investigation. Eye research was shown to be blazing new trails in the transplantation of both human tissue and man-made grafting materials, and in development of the medical potential of ultrasound devices, laser techniques, cryotherapy, high-magnification photography and electronics.

As the scientists and writers lived, worked and talked together for four days, a picture emerged of the eye as an extraordinary window into the ongoing life processes of the human body — and of eye research as the key to the preservation of sight.

Each day the science writers interpreted and dispatched this news from the laboratories to the public through their wire services, newspapers, magazines, television and radio. Each day the work of the scientists was seen — and projected by the writers



Telling the press of their progress in specific areas of eye research, a distinguished panel of scientists responds to the searching questions of writers during a session of RPB's Second National Science Writers Seminar in Ophthalmology.

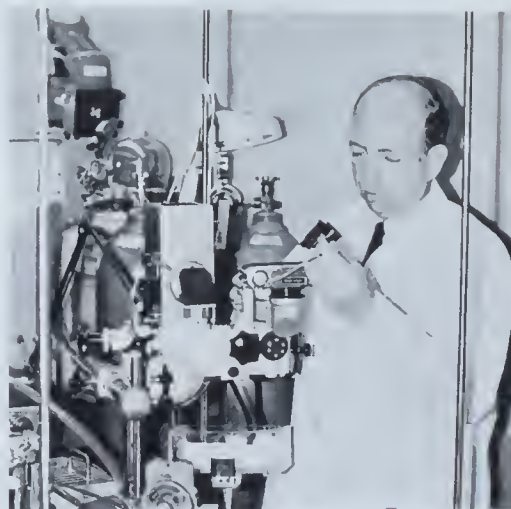
# eye research in the public eye

— as part of the essential fabric of human activity and progress.

The immediately observable result was the appearance of a multitude of authentic eye research news stories throughout the nation's mass communications media. Most important, however, is the long-term benefit to society that derives from the progressive growth of public knowledge in an area of scientific endeavor that bears directly upon the lives of millions of people in this nation and throughout the world.



Associated Press Science Editor Alton L. Blakeslee (center) interviews Dr. Gerd Meyer-Schwickerath and Dr. Charles L. Schepens, winners of RPB Trustees Award for eye research.



One of 30 scientists participating in RPB seminar, Dr. Arnall Patz of Johns Hopkins University described an important new technique to avert damage to retinal blood vessels — and possible blindness — in premature infants requiring oxygen therapy.



# seminar sidelights





RPB's second National Science Writers Seminar in Ophthalmology helped put eye research in the national spotlight during November. Informal discussions of writers and scientists continued long after panel sessions concluded on each day of the four-day meeting. Some of the finest news stories were the result of deeper insights obtained by all the participants through these stimulating conversations.



**each year** the economic cost of blindness continues to soar, while the amount of money invested in preventive research by all sources has only begun to meet some of the most basic needs of this long neglected science. Under such circumstances, RPB's role in strengthening the total eye research environment becomes critically important.

With limited funds being channeled into eye research, RPB has moved directly to the task of multiplying the practical value of every dollar invested — from whatever source. In providing laboratory space, encouraging the development of manpower and giving new status and freedom to ophthalmic research units in the nation's medical schools, it has established the groundwork for solid financial investment by both private philanthropy and government in one of the most necessary scientific undertakings of our time — the eradication of blinding diseases.

While generating a nationwide resurgence of scientific and public interest in the prevention of blindness, RPB has itself elected to avoid the entrapment of organizational bigness. By all standards, its staff is among the smallest of all voluntary agencies, its operating and fund raising costs extraordinarily low. Yet it continues to demonstrate the dynamism of voluntary action to the extent that it ranks among all voluntary health agencies as the nation's sixth largest contributor to medical research.

During 1967, RPB's annual contributed income reached more than \$500,000, continuing a steady increase from the \$192,000 raised in 1963. As support from individuals, foundations and corporations has grown over the years, the U.S. Treasury Department has affirmed that personal contributions to RPB qualify for an additional 10 percent contribution allowance and are deductible for tax purposes to the extent of 30 percent of the contributor's adjusted gross income (Section 170 (b) (1) (A) (vi), Internal Revenue Code).

A year-end appeal by RPB's Board Chairman, Dr. Jules Stein, brought more than \$225,000 in contributions to RPB during the months of December, 1967 and January, 1968. Since Dr. and Mrs. Stein agreed to match each contribution, their personal gifts raised that total to more than \$450,000. The 1967 Financial Statement reflects only those gifts received before December 31. The American premiere of the motion picture, "A Countess from Hong Kong," netted \$59,264 for RPB in a benefit performance that was a highlight of the social season in New York City. The development of an RPB Memorial Gift program has met with wide acceptance among ophthalmologists and many other contributors who find this a most appropriate expression of friendship and sympathy. Pledges amounting to \$51,251 are not reflected in the accompanying Financial Statement.

RPB's Trustees continue to meet the organization's operating costs through their own contributions. As a result, each gift to RPB is used entirely for direct support of eye research programs which are stimulating the explosive growth of scientific activity to rid the world of the tragedy of blindness.



James S. Adams  
Treasurer

# report of the treasurer

## How RPB Funds Have Been Invested 1960-67

### EYE RESEARCH PROGRAMS

77%

EYE RESEARCH GRANTS (53%)

\*Support of LABORATORY CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS—(8%)

NATIONAL SURVEYS, SEMINARS AND SYMPOSIA (7%)

RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT (9%)

All Operating Costs are paid by RPB's Board of Trustees

ADMINISTRATION (11%)

FUND RAISING (2%)

PUBLIC INFORMATION (10%)

RPB's operating costs are met through contributions from its volunteer Board of Trustees, thus freeing all other donations for programs in support of research. Its extremely low fund raising costs are the result of a highly selective approach to individuals, foundations and corporations.

\*Represents expenditures in underwriting research building campaigns whose proceeds, amounting to \$10,000,000, were donated directly to the institutions involved, not to RPB.

## RPB Budget of Expenditures And/Or Commitments — 1968

### Research grants and other program expenditures or commitments:

Unrestricted Research Grants to medical schools and other institutions .....	\$170,000
Research Development Grants .....	22,500
Special, Emergency and Research Manpower Grants .....	66,000
Scientific Seminars and Symposia .....	5,000
Ophthalmic Awards for Outstanding Achievement .....	38,000
Research laboratory construction campaign expenses to provide new facilities at eye research centers .....	300,000*
Program Development .....	34,500
Public and Professional Information .....	64,000
	<u>\$700,000</u>

### Operating expenditures:

Staff salaries and consultants services .....	\$ 34,500
Accountants fee .....	2,500
Office equipment .....	8,300
General and health insurance .....	5,200
General administration .....	7,500
Fund raising .....	8,000
Contingencies .....	4,000
Total operating expenditures .....	<u>\$ 70,000</u>
Total planned expenditures and commitments .....	<u>\$770,000</u>

\*Includes estimates for 1968 and \$250,000 for subsequent periods.



# Research to Prevent Blindness, Inc.

## Statement of Financial Position — December 31, 1967

### Assets:

Cash:		
Checking accounts .....	\$ 31,007	
Interest-bearing accounts .....	181,084	
Investments, at cost:		
MCA Inc. common stock —		
5,331 shares (quoted market — \$394,494) .....	\$249,430	
U. S. Government securities		
(quoted market — \$989,766) .....	999,764	
Corporate bonds		
(quoted market — \$484,188) .....	499,984	
Other securities		
(quoted market — \$10,802) .....	6,933	1,756,111
Receivables:		
Interest and dividends .....	25,634	
Contribution .....	4,700	
Deferred charges and other assets .....	1,673	
		2,000,209

### Liabilities:

Accounts payable and accrued expenses .....	2,341	
Professorship grants .....	15,000	17,341
Net assets .....		<u>\$1,982,868</u>

## Statement of Operations

	Year ended December 31	
	1967	1966
<b>Income:</b>		
Donations:		
Securities, at market value on date of gift .....	\$ 239,579	\$ 258,040
Cash .....	232,216	225,639
Personal property, at amounts realized .....	4,214	997
	476,009	484,676
Special event (less related expenses of \$7,880) .....	59,264	
Interest and dividends .....	103,302	73,405
	<u>638,575</u>	<u>558,081</u>
<b>Program grants and expenditures:</b>		
Research grants to medical schools and other		
institutions .....	167,750	158,738
Public information .....	36,340	52,104
Cost of raising funds for new eye research buildings		
(See Note) .....	17,953	36,854
Scientific achievement awards program .....	38,138	30,100
Program development to stimulate laboratory expansion		
programs and the intensification of ophthalmological		
research activities .....	23,138	21,585
Scientific surveys, seminars and symposia .....	23,985	2,281
Research manpower awards .....	10,000	
	<u>317,304</u>	<u>301,662</u>
<b>Expenses:</b>		
Administration .....	44,368	37,661
Fund raising .....	7,387	8,624
	<u>51,755</u>	<u>46,285</u>
<b>Securities adjustments:</b>		
(Gain) Loss realized on sale of securities .....	(753)	162,032
Decrease in reserve required to reduce securities to		
quoted market .....		(58,048)
	<u>(753)</u>	<u>103,984</u>
Total expenses and deductions .....	<u>368,306</u>	<u>451,931</u>
Net operating results — increase in net assets .....	270,269	106,150
Net assets at beginning of year .....	1,712,599	1,606,449
Net assets at end of year .....	<u>\$1,982,868</u>	<u>\$1,712,599</u>

#### **Note To The Financial Statements — December 31, 1967**

Research to Prevent Blindness, Inc. (RPB) pays all fund-raising costs for eye research building campaigns which it initiates and sponsors for leading medical research centers throughout the United States. Contributions resulting from such campaigns are not received by or channeled through RPB, but are conveyed by contributors directly to the medical centers. During 1967, construction campaigns were in the process of completion or development at the University of California, Los Angeles; Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center; University of Louisville and Duke University. These institutions report that contributions and pledges, not including governmental funds, in excess of \$8,600,000 had been received from the inception of their campaigns to December 31, 1967. An RPB campaign concluded in 1964 resulted in the construction of an eye research building at the Johns Hopkins University.

#### **Opinion of Independent Accountants**

To the Board of Trustees  
Research to Prevent Blindness, Inc.

In our opinion, the accompanying statement of financial position and related statement of operations present fairly the financial position of Research to Prevent Blindness, Inc. at December 31, 1967 and its income and expenses for the year, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year. Our examination of these statements was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and accordingly included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances, including confirmation of the cash and securities owned at December 31, 1967 by correspondence with the depositories. It was impracticable for us to extend our examination of donations received beyond accounting for amounts so recorded.

**Price Waterhouse & Co.**

March 29, 1968  
New York, N. Y.

Opening night crowds watch the arrival of celebrities in a vintage automobile parade that marked the exciting RPB benefit premiere of the motion picture, "A Countess from Hong Kong".



**Research to Prevent Blindness, Inc.** 598 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10022

**OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES**

**JULES C. STEIN**, *Chairman*  
Chairman of the Board, MCA Inc., and former  
practicing ophthalmologist

**ROBERT E. MCCORMICK**, *President*  
Attorney, former corporate officer,  
Olin Mathieson Chemical Corp.

**MRS. ALBERT D. LASKER**, *Vice President*  
President, Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation

**LEW R. WASSERMAN**, *Vice President*  
President, MCA Inc.

**JAMES S. ADAMS**, *Treasurer*  
General Partner, Lazard Freres & Co.

**MRS. ANNA BING ARNOLD**  
Beverly Hills, California

**WILLIAM C. CONNER**  
President, Alcon Laboratories, Inc.

**MRS. WILLIAM M. GREVE**  
New York City

**WILLARD W. KEITH**  
Chairman, Marsh & McLennan, Inc. of California

**MRS. HARRY C. WIESS**  
Houston, Texas

**WILLIAM J. VANDEN HEUVEL**,  
*Secretary and Counsel*  
Partner, Stroock & Stroock & Lavan

**SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY PANEL**

**EDWARD W. DEMPSEY, PH.D.**  
Chairman, Department of Anatomy  
Columbia University

**SIDNEY FARBER, M.D.**  
S. Burt Wolbach Professor of Pathology,  
Harvard Medical School

**E. CUYLER HAMMOND, Sc.D.**  
Director, Statistical Research Section  
American Cancer Society

**H. K. HARTLINE, M.D.**  
Nobel Laureate, Rockefeller University

**RICHARD L. MASLAND, M.D.**  
Director, National Institute of Neurological  
Diseases and Blindness

**A. EDWARD MAUMENEE, M.D.**  
Director, Wilmer Ophthalmological Institute  
Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions

**WILLIAM C. H. PRENTICE, PH.D.**  
President, Wheaton College

**ALGERNON B. REESE, M.D.**  
Consultant in Ophthalmology  
Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center

**EDWARD L. TATUM, PH.D.**  
Nobel Laureate, Rockefeller University

**GEORGE WALD, PH.D.**  
Nobel Laureate,  
Professor of Biology, Harvard University

**EXECUTIVE STAFF**

**DAVID F. WEEKS**  
Executive Director

**HAROLD F. SPALTER, M.D.**  
Secretary, Scientific Advisory Panel

**ALBERT V. BURNS**  
Director of Public Information



**bequests** to RPB are especially welcome as a means of assuring the continuity and stability of research programs. The proper form for such bequest is:

**“I give and bequeath**

to Research to Prevent Blindness, Inc. of 598 Madison Avenue, New York City, a membership corporation organized under the laws of the State of New York, for its corporate purposes, the sum of ..... dollars.”

---

**memorial gifts** may be made to Research to Prevent Blindness, Inc. in any amount and will be acknowledged with dignity. An appropriate Memorial Card is sent in behalf of the giver to the family of the deceased. The donor receives a Thank You card of similar design.

"If one-tenth of the money  
we now spend to support  
unnecessary blindness were  
spent to prevent it, society  
would be the gainer in terms  
of cold economy, not to  
mention considerations of the  
happiness of humanity."

**Helen Keller**



**Research to Prevent Blindness, Inc.** 598 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10022